



Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge E-postcard Archery Deer Hunt Information

Background: Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge (refuge) is located northwest of Austin, Texas. The refuge was established in 1992 to conserve habitat for two songbirds, the golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo, and to maintain habitat for numerous other wildlife species native to the Texas Hill Country. The refuge is located within a deeply dissected portion of the Edwards Plateau that contains many steep-banked streams and canyons. The vegetation found in the area is a mix of woodlands, shrublands, and oak savannas and includes various tree species including oaks, elms, and Ashe juniper (cedar).

Objective: Provide public hunting opportunity at Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

Orientation: All selected hunters must attend a mandatory orientation at 10:00 am on September 30, 2023 at the Balcones Canyonlands NWR Headquarters. Hunting starts after orientation.

Hunt Period: September 30-October 29, 2023.

Where: Two hunt compartments on Balcones Canyonlands NWR totaling 640 acres. Compartment 2-1 (Mouton tract) is 200 acres and Compartment 2-2 (Shaw tract) is 440 acres. Hunters may access the hunt compartments each day of the hunt period for hunting during daylight hours only.

Legal Methods: Bow & crossbow only.

Bag Limit: Four white-tailed deer; either sex (limit 2 bucks). One turkey, either sex. Unlimited feral hogs. The harvest of all other species is prohibited.

Legal Shooting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

Access/On-Site Registration: Hunters are required to check in and out of the hunt compartments using registration stations provided each day. Do not block gates or roadways.

Preparation: Hunters must possess a valid Texas hunting license, Hunter Education (if required), Annual Public Hunting Permit (except youth), E-postcard notification issued from TPWD and any required stamp as required by statute. Please have equipment sighted-in prior to your arrival at the NWR. Hunters are required to tag harvested deer using tags from their hunting license and record all harvested deer, turkey and hogs using the registration stations.

Facilities: A skinning and quartering area is not available. Animals may be field dressed or skinned and quartered in the hunt compartments. Entrails, organs, hide, etc. may left field for scavengers to consume. Fires, camping, and target practice while on the refuge are prohibited.

Stands: Portable hunting stands can be used during these hunts but are not provided. They may be set up following the hunt orientation on October 2. The use of stands and area are at your own risk. Portable stands must not damage trees. Driving nails, spikes or other metal objects into trees or hunting from trees in which any objects have been driven into a tree is prohibited. APH Permit rules state that no blind can be set up for more than 72 hours. A Gear Tag containing name, address and date set must be attached to all stands and game cameras. Hunting spots are first-come first-serve. No stands within 50 yards of a road open to vehicular travel or unit boundary. Individuals may not discharge a bow or crossbow within 150 yards of a residence, developed recreational site or occupied area.

Baiting: The use of all bait (corn, commercial food pellets, mineral blocks, etc.) is prohibited.. Only natural scents are allowed.

Vehicles: Transportation to and from the assigned hunting units are the responsibility of the hunter. All-terrain vehicles (ATV) and off-road vehicles (ORV) are allowed only on roadways.

Hunter Orange Requirement: Permitted hunters must wear a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange, with at least 144 square inches appearing on both the chest and back. Additionally, all hunters must wear a hunter orange hat or cap.

Youth Supervision: Youth under 17 are required to be under the immediate supervision of an authorized supervising adult, 18 or older, who possesses a valid Texas hunting license and APH Permit. Youth under 12 years old must remain within normal voice distance of the supervising adult. For youth 12 to 16 years of age who have received hunter education certification, the requirement for immediate supervision is relaxed to the extent that the supervising adult is required only to be present on the hunt compartment. The supervising adult is responsible for the actions and liability of the youth.

Other Users: The Balcones Canyonlands NWR has many types of users. Non-hunters such as hikers, birdwatchers and photographers do not have to meet hunter orange requirements.

Scouting: The hunt compartments will open for scouting and hunting immediately following the Hunter Orientation on October 1. Hunters must perform on-site registration each day.

Other Regulations: The possession of firearms, including handguns, is prohibited on the refuge. The use or possession of alcohol while on the area is prohibited. Dogs are prohibited and may not be used for scouting or hunting.

Other Information: If you have any further questions, you may telephone the Balcones Canyonlands NWR Headquarters at (512) 339-9432.